

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action mailed April 28, 2003. Applicants amend Claim 11 to correct a typographical error that had resulted in an improper dependency claim. Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-26, 28-32 and 34-38 remain pending in the Application.

Claim to Priority

Applicants amend the Specification to claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/149,156 entitled: *Method and Apparatus for a Computer Network System Designed to Facilitate Rebate Fulfillment and Customer Information Gathering* filed August 15, 1999.¹

¹ This amendment is permitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 as it existed at the time of filing. Subsequent amendments to § 1.78 are operative only with respect to applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. *See*, Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 183 at 57204 (September 20, 2000).

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-26, 28-32 and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0161641 to Quinlan et al. ("*Quinlan*"). The present Application now has a priority date of August 15, 1999, which predates the earliest date possibly claimed by *Quinlan*. Thus *Quinlan* may not be used alone or in combination to support a rejection of Applicants' claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of the Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Although no fees are believed to be currently due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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